[7th February 1924

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—" May I know whether the records from which these data have been compiled have been destroyed ? "

The hon. Sir Arthur Knapp :—" They have not been destroyed. "

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—" As this information is very important in deciding the enhancement of assessment, will the Government be pleased to call for information, so that we may have a proper discussion of this question ? "

The hon. Sir Arthur Knapp :—" I will consider the question and if I find that calling for such information would serve a useful purpose, I shall do so."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—" I have given notice of a Resolution on this subject and therefore I have called for this information."

The hon. the President :—" The hon. Member was not putting a supplementary question the last time he spoke."

Forests.

Reserve forests in Anantapur district.

206 *Q.*—Mr. G. Rameswara Rao : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of reserved forests in Anantapur district, giving the area of each, the annual income derived from each and the shortest distance of each from the nearest village limits ;

(*b*) the annual expenditure incurred on subordinate staff in each of the reserved forests, and the total annual expenditure on superior Forest Officers in the district, including the District Forest Officer ;

(*c*) what was the total amount of fines and compounding fees levied in the district on account of forest offences in each year during the last five years ;

(*d*) whether there is any superior growth in any forest and whether it is proposed to start any plantation in any of these and if so at what cost ;

(*e*) if the Government have received representations either for disafforestation or for releasing them ; and

(*f*) if so, what orders have been passed on such representations ?

A.—(*a*) A statement showing the number of reserved forests with their area is placed on the Council Table.* The Government have no information on the other points referred to.

(*b*) The Government have no information as regards the annual expenditure incurred on subordinate staff in each of the reserved forests. The total annual expenditure on Superior Forest Officers in the district including the District Forest Officer is Rs. 20,900.

* Printed as Appendix I on page 291 infra.

7th February 1924]

(c) The amount of fines and forfeitures realized during the last five years is given below :—

Year.	Amount.
	RS.
1918–19	8,242
1919–20	7,172
1920–21	8,276
1921–22	1,10,673
1922–23	12,707

These figures include also the following items :—

(i) fines inflicted on contractors,

(ii) compensation awarded by Magistrates to the department in forest cases, and

(iii) fees for extension of time in connexion with contracts for felling coupes.

(d) Some of the reserves contain fairly good growth. There is no proposal to start any plantation in any of the reserves.

(e) Yes.

(f) (i) With reference to a petition received from one Hanijee Naick of Kothakota, the Government have approved the proposal to disforest the whole of Chiralapolli reserve and portions of Yerlampalli, Kothakota and Vargalamma Cheruvu reserves.

(ii) As a result of a petition from the ryots of the adjoining villages four blocks of the Tarimala reserve comprising an area of 2,089·60 acres have been disforested.

(iii) A petition from the ryots of Gangavaram and other villages for the disforestation of the Golla reserve is under consideration.

(iv) Petitions received from the ryots in certain villages for the disforestation of portions of Katrimala East and Nigidi East and West reserve on the ground of their proximity to villages are being inquired into by the Chief Conservator of Forests.

Mr. G. Rameswara Rao :—" I want to investigate the matter. Will the Government be pleased to call for information ?"

The hon. Sir Arthur Knapp :— " May I suggest to the hon. Member that, if he wants information for one or two reserved forests in the district, it will be convenient if he will say so. We might then be able to collect the information for him without much labour. Until I know that such information would serve a useful purpose, I am afraid I cannot call for information for all the reserved forests in that district as desired by the hon. Member."